

1.(currently amended): A method for improving the transmission efficiency of an original video signal transmitted as a plurality of frames, said frames containing said video signal encoded in a base layer and an enhancement layer wherein at least one element of said enhancement layer is selectively enhanced by designating said at least one element to have a higher priority of transmission, said method comprising:

transmitting a first set of criteria for one of said frames; and

transmitting an indicator that causes said first set of criteria to be used for a subsequent one of said frames if a second set of criteria for the subsequent one of said frames is substantially the same as said first set of criteria, without transmitting said second set of criteria.

2.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least one enhancement factor value.

3.(original): The method as recited in claim 2 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value is applied to each element within in said enhancement layer.

4.(Cancelled)

5.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 2 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value is power of two.

6.(Cancelled)

7.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said first set of criteria includes position, size and enhancement factor value.

8.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 7 wherein said position is selected with respect to a known point.

9.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim I wherein said first set of criteria includes at least a second indicator that indicates a corresponding known value.

10.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein said known value is selected from the group consisting of position, displacement vector, size, and enhancement factor.

11.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein said indicator is substantially the same as said at least a second indicator.

12.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said at least one element comprises a plurality of pixels in an array having an equal number of rows and columns.

13.(previously presented): The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the number of rows is selected from the group consisting of 2, 3, 4, 8, and 16.

14.(original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said enhancement layer is fine granular scalability encoded.

15.(currently amended): A device for reformatting frames of a video data stream for improving the transmission efficiency of said video data stream, wherein said video data stream includes a base layer and an enhancement layer wherein at least one element of said enhancement layer is selectively enhanced by designating said at least one element to have a higher priority of transmission, said device comprising:

means for receiving frames of said enhancement layer;

means for generating a first set of criteria for one of said frames; and

means for generating an indicator that causes said first set of criteria to be used for a subsequent one of said frames if a second set of criteria for the subsequent one of said frames is substantially the same as said first set of criteria, wherein when said subsequent one of said frames includes said indicator, said subsequent one of said frames will not include said second set of criteria.

16.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least one enhancement factor value.

17.(original): The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value corresponds to each element within in said enhancement layer.

18.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value corresponds to said at least one element.

19.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value is power of two.

20.(Cancelled)

21.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein said first set of criteria includes position, size and enhancement factor value.

22.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 21 wherein said position is selected with respect to a known point.

23.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least a second indicator that indicates a corresponding known value.

24.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 23 wherein said known value is selected from the group consisting of position, displacement vector, size, and enhancement factor.

25.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 23 wherein said indicator is substantially the same as said at least a second indicator.

26.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein said element comprises a plurality of pixels contained in an array having an equal number of rows and columns.

27.(previously presented): The device as recited in claim 26 wherein the number of rows is selected from the group consisting of 2, 3, 4, 8, and 16.

28.(original): The device as recited in claim 15 wherein said enhancement layer is fine granular scalability encoded.

29.(currently amended): An apparatus for coding video, said apparatus being operational to improve the transmission efficiency of a video signal transmitted as a plurality of frames, said frames containing said video signal encoded in a base layer and an enhancement layer wherein at least one element of said enhancement layer is selectively enhanced by designating said at least one element to have a higher priority of transmission, said apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting a first set of criteria for one of said frames; and

means for transmitting an indicator that causes said first set of criteria to be used for a subsequent one of said frames if a second set of criteria for the subsequent one of said frames is substantially the same as said first set of criteria, without transmitting said second set of criteria.

30.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least one enhancement factor value.

31.(original): The apparatus as recited in claim 30 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value corresponds to each element within in said enhancement layer.

32.(Cancelled)

33.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 30 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value is power of two.

34.(original): The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein said at least one element is composed of a plurality of elements.

35.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 34 wherein said first set of criteria includes position, size and enhancement factor value for each of said elements.

36.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 35 wherein said position is selected with respect to a known point.

37.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least a second indicator that indicates a corresponding known value.

38.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 37 wherein said known values is selected from the group consisting of position, displacement vector, size, and enhancement factor.

39.(previously presented): The apparatus as recited in claim 37 wherein said indicator is substantially the same as said at least a second indicator.

40.(original): The apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein said enhancement layer is fine granular scalability encoded.

41.(currently amended): A system operational to improve the transmission efficiency of a video signal transmitted as a plurality of frames, said frames containing said video signal encoded in a base layer and an enhancement layer wherein at least one element of said enhancement layer is selectively enhanced by designating said at least one element to have a higher priority of transmission, said system comprising:

means for transmitting a first set of criteria for one of said frames;

means for transmitting an indicator if a second set of criteria for a subsequent one of said frames is substantially the same as said first set of criteria, without transmitting said second set of criteria;

means for receiving said first set of criteria and said indicator; and

means for applying said first set of criteria to said subsequent one of said frames.

42.(previously presented): The system as recited in claim 41 wherein said first set of criteria includes at least one enhancement factor value.

43.(original): The system as recited in claim 41 wherein said at least one enhancement factor value corresponds to each element within said enhancement layer.

44.(Cancelled)

45.(currently amended): A device for improving the transmission efficiency of an original video signal transmitted as a plurality of frames, said frames containing said video signal encoded in a base layer and an enhancement layer wherein at least one element of said enhancement layer is selectively enhanced by designating said at least one element to have a higher priority of transmission, said device comprising:

code for transmitting a first set of criteria for one of said frames; and

code for transmitting an indicator that causes said first set of criteria to be used for a subsequent one of said frames if a second set of criteria for the subsequent one of said frames is substantially the same as said first set of criteria, without transmitting said second set of criteria.